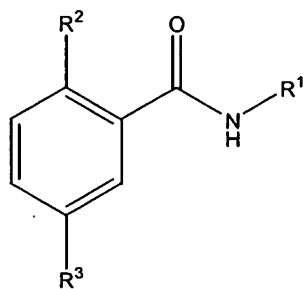


**BENZAMIDE INHIBITORS OF THE P2X<sub>7</sub> RECEPTOR**

**Abstract**

The present invention provides benzamide inhibitors of the P2X<sub>7</sub> receptor of the formula:



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wherein R<sup>1</sup>-R<sup>3</sup> are as defined herein. The compounds of the invention are useful in the treatment of IL-1 mediated disorders, including, without limitation, inflammatory diseases such as osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis; allergies, asthma, COPD, cancer, reperfusion or ischemia in stroke or heart attack, autoimmune diseases and other disorders.